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other hand, that body of scientific thinkers who repudiate all forms of theological truth will probably fail to have much sympathy with the conclusions reached in these pages. No one, however, who has a thoughtful mind can fail to find much of interest and significance in this trenchant discussion of the interpretation of nature by Professor Shaler.

Formation of the Union, 1750-1822. By ALBERT BUSHNELL HART. New York, Longmans, Green & Co. \$1.25.

THIS is the second volume in the series of Epochs of American History, and is by the editor of the series. It is written in an excellent narrative style, clear and bright, and much more carefully finished than the style of most of our younger historians. It is not well adapted for beginners, since it can hardly be understood and appreciated without some previous knowledge of the period it covers. For those who possess such knowledge, however, even in outline, this book will be both entertaining and useful. It is devoted, as the author in his preface remarks, to "the study of causes rather than of events, the development of the American nation out of scattered and inharmonious colonies." Though it embraces the period of the Revolution and the War of 1812, it contains very little military history, the author holding that though military movements are of great interest to professional soldiers, "the layman needs to know rather what were the means, the character, and the spirit of the two combatants in each case, and why one succeeded where the other was defeated." The causes of the Revolution are set forth with great clearness in a brief space; the true character of the struggle is pointed out; and the reasons for the success of the Americans are made apparent. Then follows a lucid exposition of the difficulties and distresses which showed the necessity of a stronger national government, and of the successful efforts of the wisest leaders in framing and establishing such a government. Professor Hart, however, saw clearly that, though the Union was now formed, it was not yet securely founded; and so he follows its fortunes

through the trying periods of Washington's, Adam's, and Jefferson's administrations, and even for many years after. The result is a philosophical view, comprehensive and clear, though necessarily brief, of the formation of the Federal Union and of its early struggles for recognition abroad and security at home. The growth of the national territory from the peace of 1783 to the last acquisition from Mexico in 1853 is shown in a map, and several other maps illustrate other aspects of the period under review. We commend Professor Hart's book to students of American history as an excellent review of an important period.

Proof of Evolution. By NELSON C. PARSHALL. Chicago, Charles H. Kerr & Co.

THIS little book is one of a series of popular lectures given before the Brooklyn Ethical Association. As a popular lecture it was bright, interesting, and instructive, though somewhat flip-pant and inclined to sacrifice logic for effect. One cannot but regret that the author ever committed it to print. It tries to cover the whole ground of evolution, astronomical, geological, and biological, and all in the course of 60 brief pages. One cannot but have a feeling of dissatisfaction upon reading the book. The subjects are of necessity too briefly treated to be intelligible, and show too frequently a failure of appreciation of the results of recent science. Perhaps the book may have one purpose that the author desires, of making its readers hungry for more, but it certainly cannot give one any adequate idea of the subjects outlined.

AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

THE Open Court Company of Chicago have published a book by Dr. Paul Carus, entitled "Truth in Fiction." It consists of twelve short stories of various types, and all designed to impress some moral or philosophical lesson, and particularly to illustrate

CALENDAR OF SOCIETIES.

Anthropological Society, Washington.

Mar. 28.—Major John W. Powell, A System of Psychology (continuation of former paper).

Biological Society, Washington.

Mar. 25.—L. M. McCormick, A Hybrid Between *Pyrausta rubra* and *Pyrausta erythromelas*; E. W. Doran, Development of the Intestine of Tadpoles; Theobald Smith, The Bacteriology of Potomac Water and its Bearing on Sanitary Problems; B. T. Galloway, Experiments in Preventing Rusts Affecting Cereals.

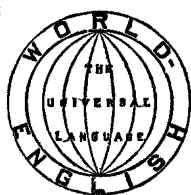
Philosophical Society, Washington.

Apr. 1.—O. T. Mason, The Philosophy of Folk-Lore; W. H. Dall, A Miocene Climate in Arctic Siberia; F. H. Bigelow, The Model Globe, Showing the Magnetic Forces that Produce the Diurnal Variations of the Needle.

New York Academy of Sciences, Biological Section.

Mar. 13.—Professor T. D. Quackenbos, in a paper on the Saibling of Lake Sunapee, distinguishes in this a fourth variety of New England charr, demonstrating that the present abundance of this *Salvelinus* is accounted for not from its introduction and natural increase, but from destruction of inimical forms within recent years, which

has given a greater available food-supply. Professor G. S. Huntington, on "Anomalies of *Pectoralis major* and minor," referred to the value of these as often presenting reversions. He emphasized the evolutionary tendency in man to proximalization of the points of attachment of the shoulder muscle group, referred to cleavage variations in anterior portion of brachio-sphalic sheet, and compared these with ontogenetic characters in anthropoids. Human anomalies in this group are best interpreted by cynocephaloids, and not by the higher forms. Professor E. B. Wilson, "On Regeneration and the Mosaic Theory of Development," presented a brief critique on the latest results of Roux and Weismann.



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